

Romans 1:1-7

Written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Rome in 57 or 58 A. D. near the end of Paul's third missionary journey. It was written to a church that Paul had never visited (Romans 15:22-24).

Romans is considered by many to be Paul's greatest letter.

"Romans is the principle and most excellent part of the New Testament.... No man can read it too oft or study it too well...."

William Tyndale, 1534

Unique Characteristics:

- 1 It is Paul's most comprehensive letter.
- 2 It is Paul's most theological letter.
- 3 It is Paul's longest letter. 7,114 words compared to the average of 1,300.
- 4 Of all Paul's Old Testament quotations, over half are found in Romans.

Purposes:

- 1 To announce his plans to visit (15:22-29)
- 2 To present a complete and detailed statement of the gospel message he proclaimed.
- 3 To ease the tension between Jewish and Gentile believers in the church at Rome.

Theme:

Simply stated – The Gospel. The word *gospel* occurs nine times in Romans (1:1, 9, 16; 2:16; 10:16; 11:28; 15:16, 19; 16:25) and the verb *preach the gospel* occurs three times (1:15; 10:15; 15:20). *Euaggelion* means "good news".

Specifically – The righteousness of God. The word *righteousness* occurs 36 times. The word *righteous* occurs five times. Righteousness is defined as: "the state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God. 1A the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God."¹

Overview:

Righteousness revealed in condemnation – 1:18-3:20

Righteousness revealed in justification – 3:21-5:21

Righteousness revealed in sanctification – 6:1-8:39

Righteousness revealed in God's choice – 9:1-11:36

Righteousness revealed in transformed living – 12:1-16:27

Three Phases of Salvation

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Positional Sanctification	Progressive Sanctification	Ultimate Sanctification
Freed from the penalty of sin	Freed from the power of sin	Freed from the presence of sin

Verse 1

Bondsman – Philippians 2:7; Exodus 21:1-6; Deuteronomy 15:12-17; Psalm 40:6.

Apostle – 1 Corinthians 9:1; Galatians 1:1; Acts 9:15.

Verses 2-3

Promised beforehand – Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53

Concerning His Son – Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7

Descendent of David – 2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 89:3-4; Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; Ezekiel 37:24-25.

Verse 4

Declared the powerful Son of God by the resurrection – The resurrection proved Jesus was who He claimed to be.

The Spirit of holiness – The Holy Spirit.

Verse 5

Obedience of faith – (16:26) Faith is obedience to God because God commands everyone to believe in Christ (John 6:28-29; Acts 17:30-34)

Verses 6-7

Called of Jesus – *Kletos* = called, invited; called to an office; invited (by the proclamation of the gospel) to obtain eternal salvation...; divinely selected and appointed.

"Calling is God's action in bringing the sinner to salvation, thus commissioning the believer to an exalted position with a new name for service to God. It is used of the process and circumstances of our coming to faith viewed from the divine side..." C. Gordon Olson

Beloved of God – Ephesians 1:6

Called Saints – We are saints because of our position in Christ. We are named or appointed saints because we have believed in Christ.

Grace and peace – Paul's greeting in all of his letters. God's grace is the only basis for any true human peace (Romans 5:1-2).

¹ Strong, J. (2001). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.